

Harley, Monroe

LUKASZ 19A

41.2000-045-00399


Artists-H

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Margaret Hunter

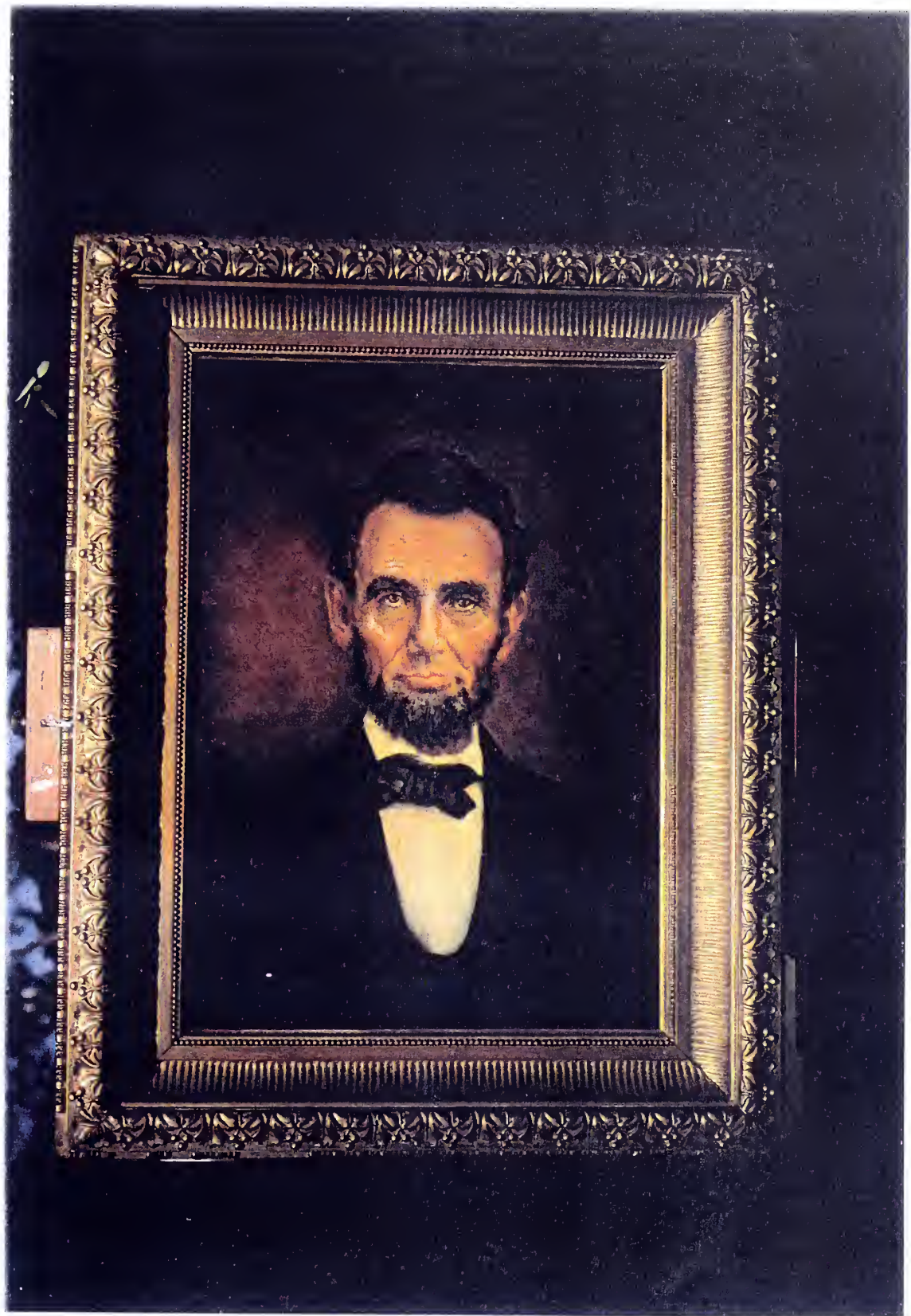
Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

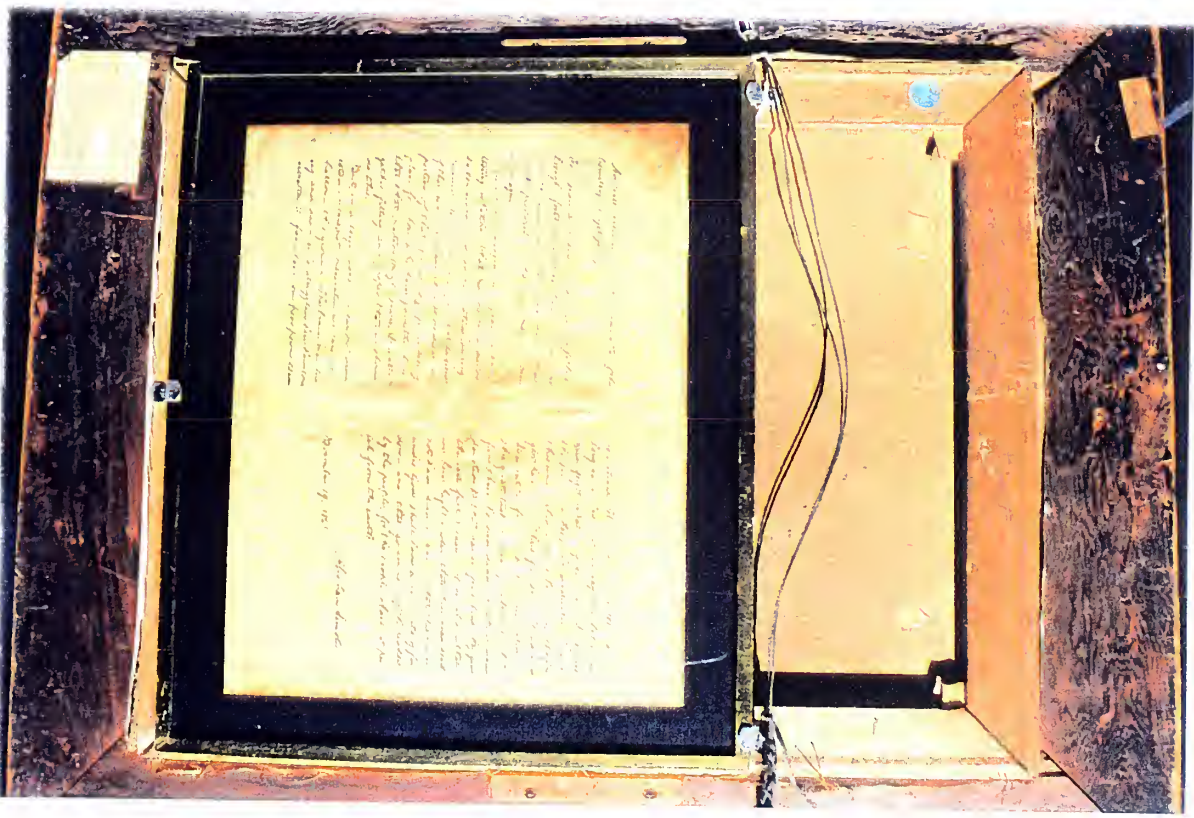
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<http://archive.org/details/artisxxxxxxxxxhline>





PHOTOCOPY
(original in safe)

From a Daguerrotype



PHOTOCOPY

(original in safe)

himself from his favorite photograph.



5905 32nd Street. N.W.

Washington - D.C.

August 31st

My dear Dr. Warren -

I have two oil portraits of Lincoln, (rather poor snapshots of which I enclose,) which unfortunate circumstances compel me to sell if possible. Mr. Harry Pratt, of the Abraham Lincoln Association, tells me that you may possibly know of some one who would be interested in buying one. If you can give me any help in this matter I shall be more than grateful. I would like to get \$75.00 each, at least. The heads are life-size, and the colouring has been highly praised.

I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope, and if you do not know of anyone, I shall be glad if you will send back the snapshots, if it is not too much trouble.

Yours truly

Margaret Hunter

(Mrs J. Monroe Hunter.)



September 9, 1942

Margaret Hunter
5905 - 32nd St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Madam:

A reply to your letter has been delayed somewhat thinking that we might be able to suggest a possible client for your art work.

I wonder if we could have a little more information about the pictures, one you say is made from a daguerreotype and we would be pleased to learn in whose possession the daguerreotype is to be found as we are quite positive that the daguerreotype must have been a copy because the original photograph is from a print made by Gardner.

You might also inform us who is the painter of the portraits or the painters, if there are two sources which may help us to eventually locate someone who would wish to have these paintings.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

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5905 32nd Street N.W.

Washington D.C.

September 13th

My dear Sir—

I am a British artist now resident in Washington, and painted the portraits of Lincoln snap-shots of which I sent to you. One was from a print of what I understand was his favourite photograph, and the other from a print lent to me by a friend, who told me it was from a daguerreotype. I am so sorry that I was misleading. If I can reach my friend, who is in Scotland, I shall ask for details of the (supposed) daguerreotype.

I have painted many well-known Washington people since coming here — the wife of the former Ambassador to Rumania and Chile, (Mr. W.S. Culbertson), General Ashburn, T. G. Newbill, Commonwealth Attorney of Virginia, from a photograph after his death, for the Court House, to the complete satisfaction of the Judge, Colonel Ashburn (two portraits), the wife of General Pickett — and many others. So far, all

my sitters have been very pleased.

Though I do not care for the portrait of Lincoln in the Capitol, I studied it for the colouring, and both portraits were highly praised when exhibited.

If you know of anyone who would care to see them with a view to purchasing one, I would be happy to send them on approval. I did that with a portrait of the President last month - sent it on approval to Illinois, and received a cheque for one hundred dollars by return mail.

My admiration for Lincoln amounts almost to hero-worship, and I am sorry that misfortune compels me to try to sell the pictures, but, as I have no choice, anything you can do will bring my deepest gratitude.

Yours very truly

Margaret Hunter.

(Mrs J. Monroe Hunter.)

September 18, 1942

Mrs. J. Monroe Hunter
5905 - 32nd Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Madam:

Thank you very much for your complete information about paintings which you have and which are your own creations.

We would be very glad indeed to keep on file here your letters for reference purposes as we very often have requests for Lincoln paintings and will be pleased to keep yours in mind.

Very truly yours,

LAW:VTF
L.A. Warren

Director

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Warrick County Museum, Inc.

217 S. First St. • P.O. Box 581 • Boonville, Indiana 47601

In May 1997, Mr. Ray Ramsey called from Carmel, California to say that he owned a painting that the Warrick County Museum might very well be interested in having. He said some visitors to his gallery had noticed the portrait of Abraham Lincoln and remarked that it should be in the museum at Boonville, Indiana. Mr. Ramsey went on to explain the story behind the oil painting.

President Lincoln had given his address dedicating the cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield. His speech was preceded by a two hour, memorized oration by Edward Everett. Benjamin P. Thomas in his biography of Lincoln described the scene: Everett's "gestures were faultless. He had mastered all the arts of eloquence. When he finished, Ward Hill Lamon introduced the President. Lincoln rose, put on his spectacles, and unfolded his single sheet of manuscript. He did not read from it closely, but merely glanced at it from time to time.

"Lincoln had finished almost before the crowd realized he had begun. The applause came tardily. A photographer was still fussing with his tripod when the President sat down." ¹

The press coverage of Lincoln's speech was not unlike that of the audience. The large newspapers printed it "as an appendage to Everett's remarks." ² Smaller papers gave it more importance. Democratic editors wrote that it left much to be desired; Republican editors praised it sparingly or ignored it. ³

Margaret Hunter, a friend, promised Lincoln that she would see that his speech was published if he would sit so that she could paint his portrait. He agreed and we have this fine oil painting. The painting was kept in her family and Mr. Ramsey purchased it (1983) from Arthur Hunter, her grandson, who was then 90 years old.

The museum needed more information and galleries in Washington, D. C. were contacted. Not one could find any record of her, but each was helpful by suggesting another source. Mr. Ronald Rippner, at the Hammer Galleries in New York City, was encouraging, saying that a good oil painting was certainly worth several thousand dollars and the original frame could be worth two or three thousand dollars. Mr Ramsey sent the museum photographs and an appraisal. On the back of the portrait were a framed copy of the Gettysburg Address and an exhibit tag. The exhibit tag gives Margaret Hunter's address--a Georgetown address--so we may assume that she was known socially. She was a good artist but is not known as a professional artist. It was an activity of many Victorian ladies. At this time, the museum does not know of any other of her paintings.

(2)

An appraisal from an independent appraiser was requested. Mr. Jerry Johnson was recommended to the museum and was sent all the material and information. His letter supported the museum's desire to acquire the painting. He also urged the museum to do further research to document the provenance required for a piece of stature. At this time, research is on going in California, Indiana and Washington, D.C. In the 27 Januray 1998 phone conversation with Mr. Ramsey, he said that Walter Skees had been in his gallery to report that his friends in Washington were watching for leads. Mr. Ramsey also reminded the writer that his services as an art researcher were only a phone call away.

1. Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin P. Thomas, Alfred A. Knopf, New York: 1953, p. 401
2. Ibid. p. 402.
3. Ibid. p. 403.

Prepared by Virginia S. Allen, Director, Warrick County Museum; January 1998.

Warrick County Museum, Inc.

217 S. First St. • P.O. Box 581 • Boonville, Indiana 47601

Indiana Premiere Showing
of
Abraham Lincoln Portrait

By
Margaret Hunter

February 15, 1998
Program and Reception
2:00 pm

Recent Acquisition.

Artist, 1864.

Index, Manuscript

LUKASER 19A

Artists-H

